

NATIONAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS CENTER

www.mpa.gov

The U.S. National System of Marine Protected Areas

Status Report on MPA Network Development

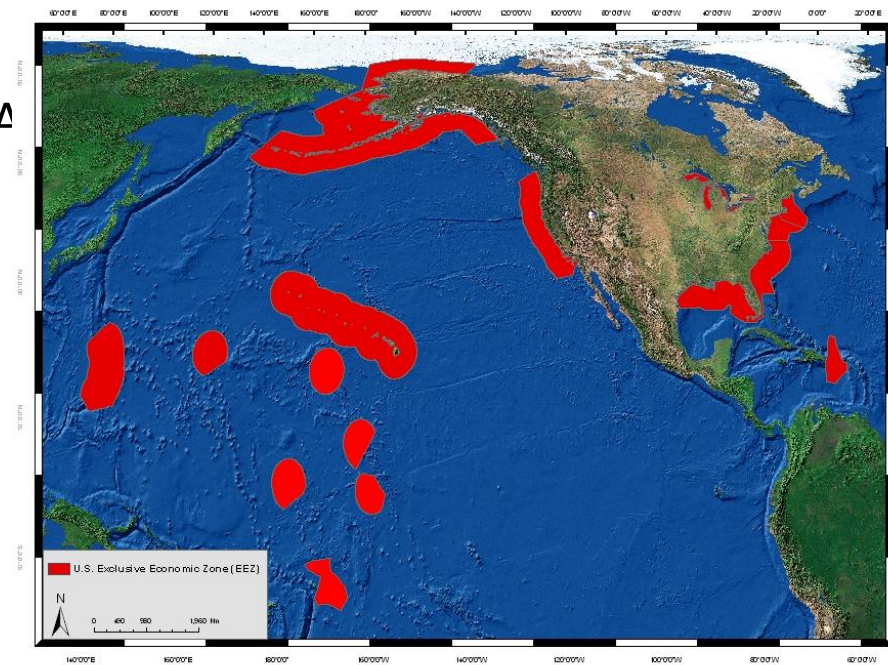
Lauren Wenzel
National System Coordinator

U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management



National Picture of MPAs

- ~ 1,600 MPAs in U.S. waters
- Hundreds of federal, state and local MPA authorities
- About 1/3 of US EEZ in some form of MPA, but purposes narrow
- Majority allow multiple uses (>99% of MPA area)
- Few prohibit all extractive activities (<1% of MPA area); no take MPAs are typically very small
- Federal programs manage most area; states manage most sites



Executive Order 13158

- Develop and implement a scientifically based, comprehensive national system of MPAs **representing diverse U.S. marine ecosystems**, and the Nation's **natural and cultural resources**
- Improve MPA coordination, stewardship and effectiveness
- This national system framework and the work of the MPA Center are intended to support, not interfere with, agencies' independent exercise of their own existing authorities.

Federal Register / Vol. 65, No. 105 / Wednesday, May 31, 2000 / Presidential Documents

34909

Presidential Documents

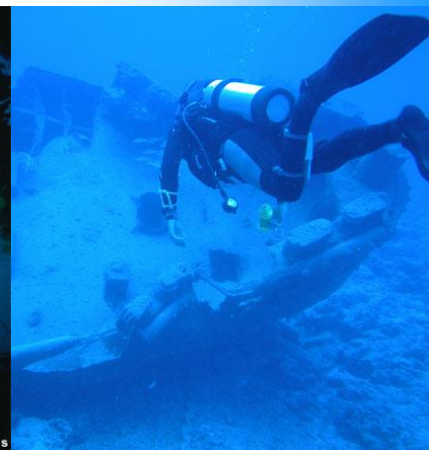
Executive Order 13158 of May 26, 2000

Marine Protected Areas

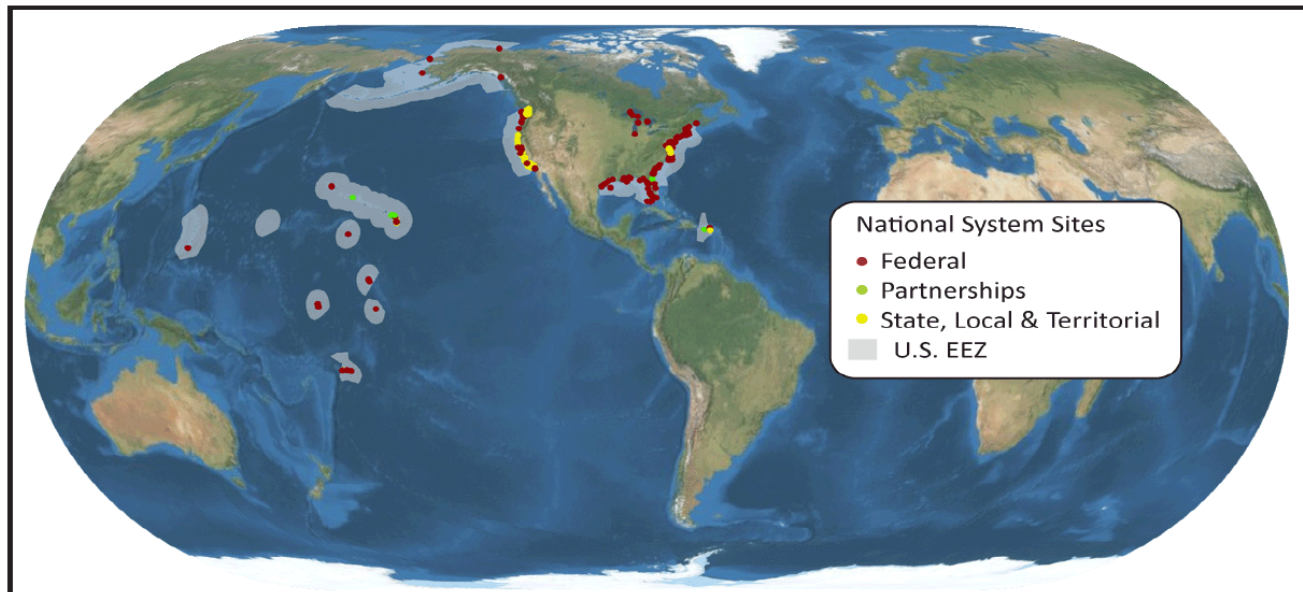
By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America and in furtherance of the purposes of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 *et seq.*), National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-ee), National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 *et seq.*), National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*), Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 *et seq.*), Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*), Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1451 *et seq.*), Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1362 *et seq.*), Clean Water Act of 1977 (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (42 U.S.C. 1321 *et seq.*), and other pertinent statutes, it is ordered, as follows:

Composition of National System

- Goal is for network to be diverse in terms of:
 - Geographic region
 - Ecosystem type
 - Level of government
 - Conservation goals



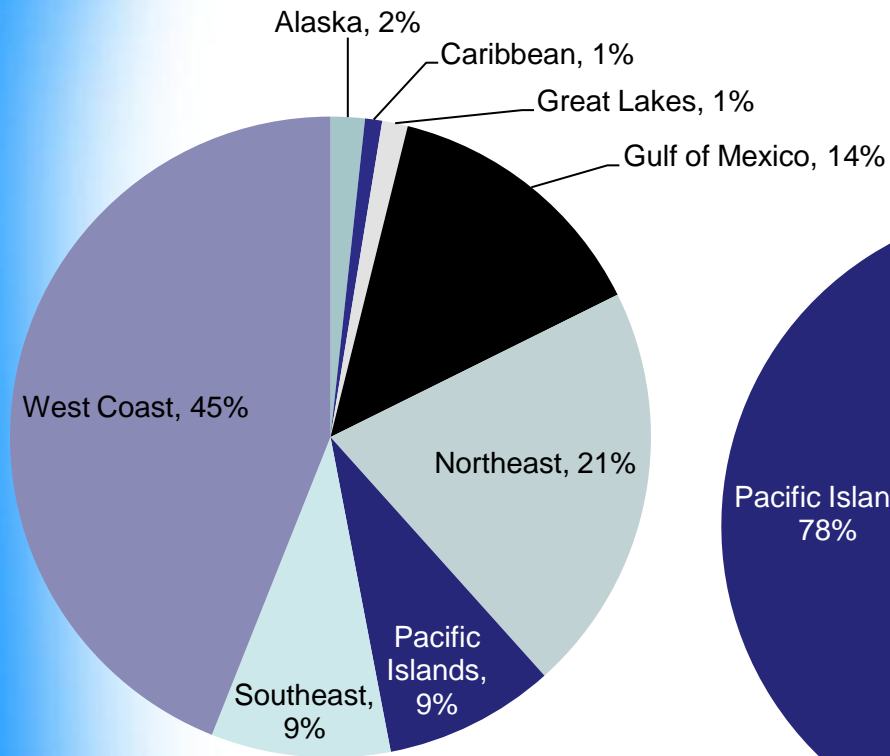
Current Status of US National System



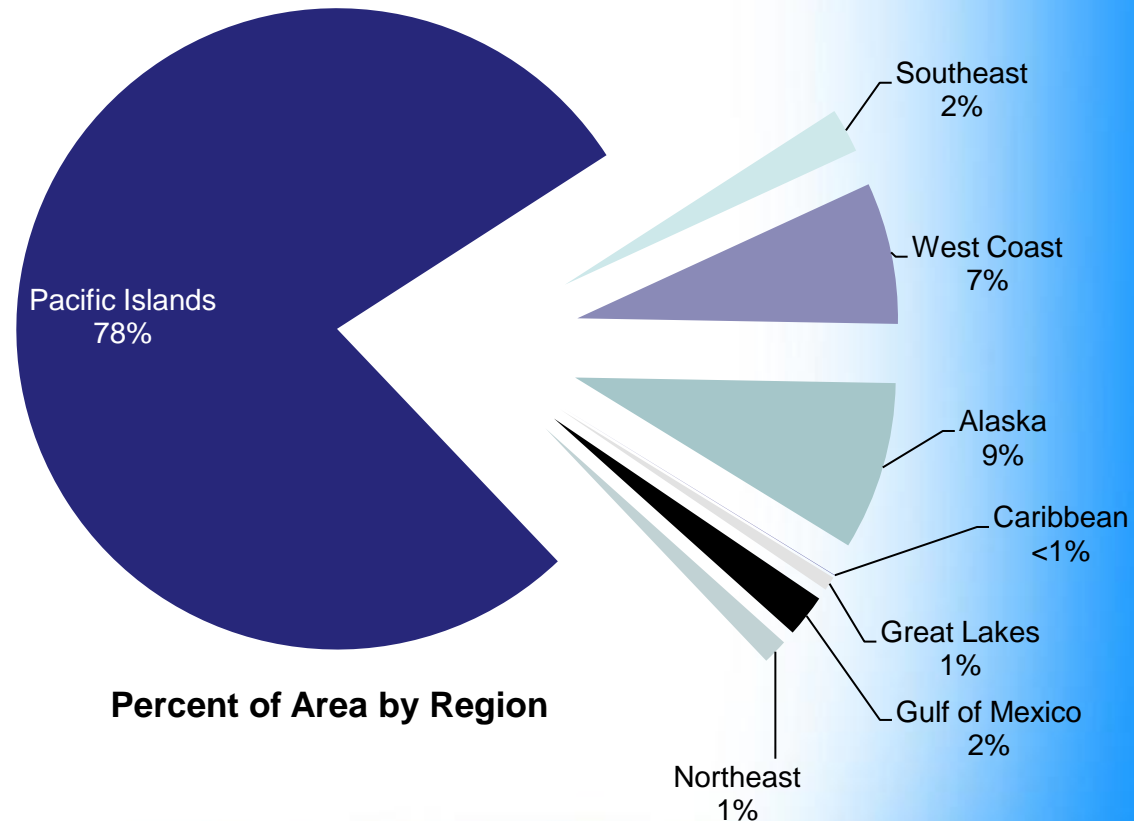
NATIONAL SYSTEM SITES AT A GLANCE:

- The national system contains 254 sites and covers an area of 175,000 square miles
- 4% of U.S. waters (0-200 nautical miles) is covered by the national system sites
- About 27% of the total area of all national system sites is considered “no-take” (where no extractive uses are allowed), due to the large, highly protected Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
- All 21 of the national system’s priority conservation objectives are addressed by national system members
- Every major ecoregion in the U.S. is represented in the national system

Distribution of National System Sites by Region



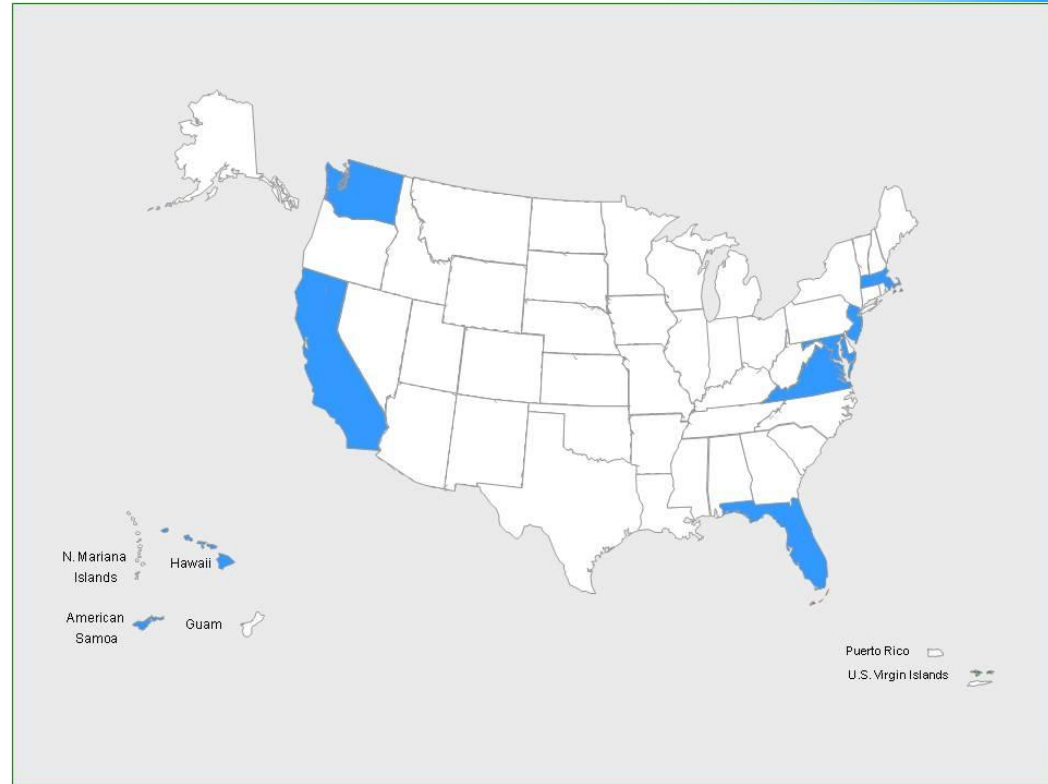
Percent of Sites by Region



Percent of Area by Region

Participating States/Territories

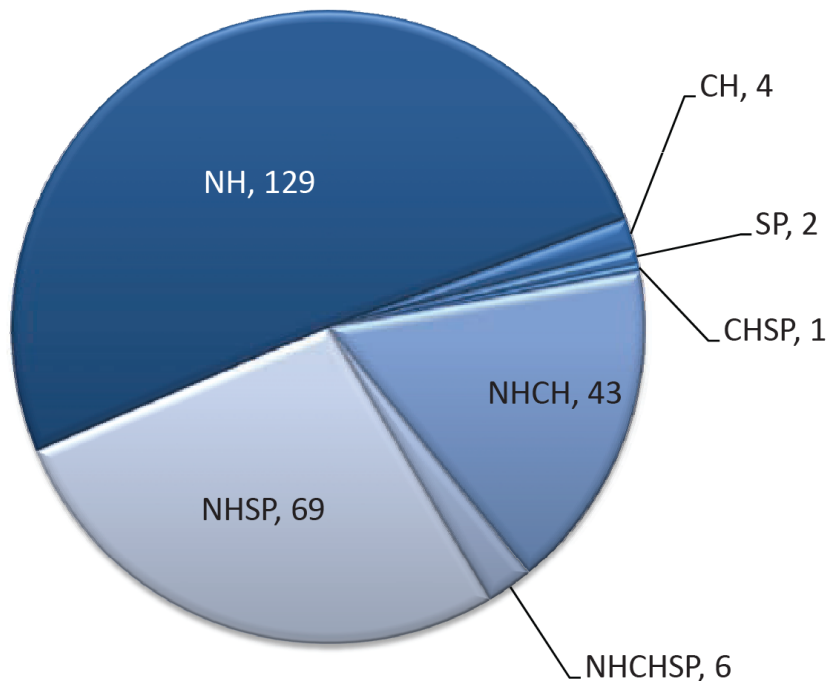
- American Samoa (1)
- California (63)
- Florida (2)
- Hawaii (7)
- Maryland (1)
- Massachusetts (1)
- New Jersey (1)
- Puerto Rico (1)
- US Virgin Islands (1)
- Virginia (7)
- Washington (20)



Distribution of National System Sites by Conservation Focus

The national system has three goals: conserving and managing natural heritage (NH), cultural heritage (CH), and sustainable production (SP) marine resources.

NUMBER OF SITES BY CONSERVATION FOCUS



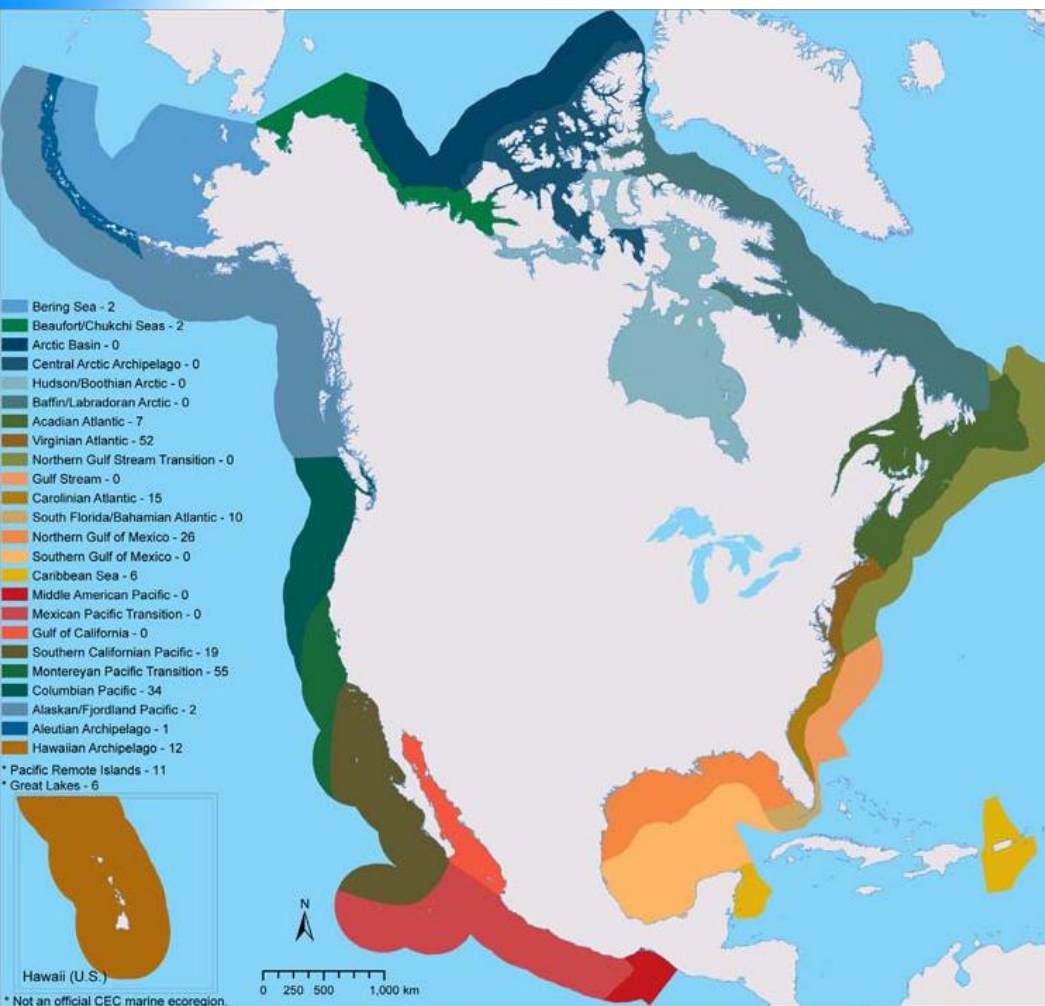
97% of sites primarily focused on conserving natural heritage

~2% of sites primarily focused on conserving cultural resources

<1% of sites primarily focused on sustainable production

47% of all sites have more than one conservation focus

National System as an Ecological Network: Ecological Representativeness



Ecoregion Type (CEC)	Number Of National System Sites	Area of Sites (sq. km)
Acadian Atlantic	6	2,206
Alaskan/Fjordland Pacific	2	5,400
Aleutian Archipelago	1	432
Beaufort/Chukchi Seas	2	461
Bering Sea	2	11,973
Caribbean Sea	2	75
Carolinian Atlantic	7	380
Columbian Pacific	31	8,815
Great Lakes	3	2,801
Hawaiian Archipelago	10	367,499
Montereyan Pacific Transition	54	20,878
Northern Gulf of Mexico	25	674
Pacific Remote	10	4,880
South Florida/Bahamian Atlantic	10	13,329
Southern Californian Pacific	18	4,409
Virginian Atlantic	47	3,121

National System as a Governance Network: MPA Managing Authorities

Of the 254 national system sites:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages 106 sites (42%)
- National Park Service manages 29 national system sites (11%)
- National Marine Sanctuaries manages 13 (5%)
- National Estuarine Research Reserve and states manage five (2%)

- 58% of the national system sites are managed by Federal agencies
- 37% of the national system sites are managed by state agencies
- 5% of the national system sites are managed by federal/
state partnerships or territories

National System as an Institutional and Social Network

- Capacity building
 - Training
 - Technical assistance
- Sharing lessons learned
- Potential efficiencies through coordinated science, stewardship and outreach
- Evaluation



Challenges and Lessons Learned

- Demonstrating the benefits of a large-scale network
- Identifying effective ways to work at the regional and sub-regional scale
- Importance of in-reach to national system members
- Promoting the national system's niche
- Gaining national and international recognition